

**Nevada Indian Commission
Meeting Minutes
Stewart Indian School
5366 Snyder Avenue, Building #3
Carson City, NV 89701**

**Monday January 29, 2024
2:30 PM**

Commissioners Present:

Kostan Lathouris, Chair
Brian Wadsworth, Vice Chair
Kelly Krolicki
Staci Emm
Tammi Tiger
Dr. Arlie Stops

Tribal Chairs Present

Amos Murphy, Confederated Tribes of Goshute
James Phoenix, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Randi Lone Eagle, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Andrea Martinez, Walker River Paiute Tribe

Tribal Council Members Present

Shelley Harjo, Ft. McDermitt

Nevada Indian Commission Staff Present

Stacey Montooth, Executive Director
Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director
Sarina Nez, Program Officer
Maradan Moyle, Office Coordinator
Greg Ott, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Tribal Liaisons Present

Godwin Nwando, DHHS
Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, DHHS
Fran Maldonado, DHHS
Vanessa Justice, DHHS
Monica Schiffer, DHHS
Christine Jones Brady, Office of the Attorney General
Steve Aichroth, Department of Business & Industry
Kailey Musso, Department of Wildlife

Patricia Olmstead, Department of Taxation
Gabrial Di Chiari, Secretary of State's Office
Deserea Quintana, Director, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education Programs, Nevada Dept. of Education
Mark Wlaschin, Secretary of State's Office
Sabrina Hagan Finks, Secretary of State's Office
Cliff Banuelos, Tribal-State Environmental Liaison, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Autumn Blattman, Washoe County
Leandra Diosa, Governor's Office of Economic Development
Greg Zegas, Nevada Clean Energy
Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Melissa Jacobowitz, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Trisha Conner, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Contracts & Grants Administrator
Dianne Williams, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Guest
Tanya Archuletta, Ft. McDermitt Nation, Guest
Jessica Stops, Crow Nation, Guest
Deliah Able, Guest
Dianna Dennis, Guest
Jazmin Orozco, Guest

The meeting was convened at 2:30 pm by Chairman Kostan Lathouris and a quorum was established. Daryl Crawford provided the invocation, and the land acknowledgment was given by the Chairman.

Participants introduced themselves and the Chair noted there were 38 people in attendance.

During public comments, Melissa Jacobowitz and Arash Ghafoori from Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) introduced themselves and requested NIC partner with their organization to combat homelessness for youth throughout Nevada including within Tribal communities and in Urban settings. As NPHY is creating a statewide plan to end youth homelessness, they asked for a letter of support for their federal grant applications. NPHY also is recruiting young people interested in committee and board work.

Greg Zegas from Nevada Clean Energy Funds, a non-profit created to provide financial and technical assistance for clean energy projects, outlined funding opportunities through the EPA via Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants. Greg said there are \$10-20 million explicit target areas in the funding for Tribal communities. He provided example projects of solar or energy storage, electrification, weatherization of buildings or homes, electric vehicles or EV chargers.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the NIC Quarterly Meeting on July 21, 2023, were approved with some minor changes.

Motion: Approve NIC Meeting Minutes from 7/21/23 with minor changes
By: Chair Lathouris
Second: Commissioner Krolicki
Vote: Approved by acclamation

New Business:

The swearing in of a new Commissioner and the election of officers was accomplished. Dr. Arlie Stops was sworn in as a Commissioner and Chairman Lathouris' term on the Commission ended. The Commission presented the outgoing Chair with a custom beaded gavel that he will be able to use in his new position as the chief judge of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe.

The Commission elected a new Chairman, Brian Wadsworth, by acclamation.

The Commission elected a new Vice Chair, Staci Emm, by acclamation.

Executive Director Report:

Executive Director Montooth summarized the four major focus areas outlined in the quarterly report including planning the required Annual Tribal Governor's Summit, distributing the \$20 million from the Governor's Recovery or the American Rescue Funds, the transition to the Department of Native American Affairs that will take place in July, and the completion of the policies regarding sacred remains.

Motion: Approve Executive Director's Quarterly Report as presented
By: Chairman Wadsworth
Second: Commissioner Emm
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Report on Stewart Indian School Cultural Center & Museum Director's Report:

Museum Director Bobbi Rahder highlighted two important items in the report: staff reposted for an Education Coordinator position, and they applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Motion: Approve SISCCM Director's Report as presented
By: Commissioner Emm
Second: Commissioner Krolicki
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Report on Stewart Father's Day Powwow:

Program Officer Sarina Nez reported that last year's powwow was a success and this year's will be even bigger and better. They are working to enhance the experience for alumni and the public.

Motion: Approve Stewart Father's Day Powwow Report as presented
By: Commissioner Tiger
Second: Commissioner Stops
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Report on American Rescue Program Act Subgrants:

Management Analyst Janet Davis gave a detailed overview about the ARPA subgrant application process and the progress of the 28 tribes in Nevada in meeting deadlines and goals. The Commissioners discussed various ways they could support tribes in the very exhaustive process and also discussed how unused funds will be allocated and the importance of keeping funds in Indian country.

Motion: Approve ARPA Subgrants Report as presented
By: Commissioner Tiger
Second: Commissioner Stops
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Indian Education Advisory Committee Report:

Fredina Drye-Romero shared that the Nevada Dept of Education received a \$10 million grant from the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services for a project that will help young people with disabilities as they transition into adulthood. NDE will work in partnership with the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation's (DETR) Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), centers for independent living, and other organizations to support the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) - Pathways to Partnerships Innovative Model Demonstration Project, known as the Nevada Transitions Roadmap through Innovative Partnerships (Nevada TRIP) initiative.

She reminded everyone about the Indian Education Annual Summit March 26th-28th on the UNR campus.

Motion: Approve IEAC Report as presented
By: Commissioner Tiger
Second: Commissioner Emm
Vote: Approved by acclamation

Civic Engagement Advisory Committee Report:

Commissioner Tammi Tiger reported that the committee's areas of focus going forward are education and support for tribes and urban leaders on working together. Redistricting and legislating is all part of civic engagement and tribes need coordinated and concerted efforts to support that.

Sabrina Hagan-Fink, the new Language Access Coordinator with the Secretary of State in Elections said her job is to make sure tribal nations are provided all the resources they need when it comes to elections.

Gabrial Di Chairi, Tribal Liaison to the Secretary of State's Office Secretary of State's Office explained EEMS, the early effective system for elections, allowing members of the Nevada tribes who live on reservations to register to vote and vote from their computer or cell phones. Tribe citizens can register to vote using their tribal IDs at NVEase.gov.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

Future Agenda Items and Meetings:

The Commissioners discussed developing a process or protocol for how the NIC supports projects and programs. Some items are highly controversial. All agreed that Executive Director Montooth should be able to make decisions, but these matters should be agendized so the public will be able to review and give feedback along the way. They need to be transparent.

Chair Wadsworth thought another future agenda item should be a presentation on the importance of tribal sovereignty.

Commissioner Emm suggested they keep inviting individual tribes to give presentations on what tribes are doing on their lands. Tribes can inspire others with how they are getting and utilizing funding, how they are improving their living conditions and the environment, and how they are honoring ancestors and ancestral lands.

Future Quarterly Meetings:

Monday, April 15, 2024 – 9:30 am (UNLV Pow Wow for the Planet)

Monday, August 19, 2024 – 9:30 am

Monday, December 16, 2024 – 9:30 am

Final Public Comments:

Darryl Crawford thanked the Commission for their dedication, hard work, and coordination to promote tribal liaisons and ongoing relationships across the state.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Chairman Wadsworth.

Motion: Adjourn Nevada Indian Commission at 4:40 pm

By: Chairman Wadsworth

Second: Commissioner Krolicki

Vote: Approved by acclamation

4/18 noon